

Richland Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

August 2008
803-576-2080



Equine Management Workshop



The Richland Conservation District, East Piedmont RC&D, along with other partners, sponsored a 6 week Equine Management Workshop which covered a broad range of topics that was beneficial to new and experienced horse owners alike. The attendees learned that an overstocked pasture will not function as a pasture any more because it will not supply adequate forage to the horse. Other topics of interest were Micro-Chipping, Premise ID, Evacuation Planning, Horse Trailer Issues along with Equine Liability Law and Liability Insurance. Everyone enjoyed meeting and talking with other horse owners who shared similar interest.

Carolina Coastal Adventure

Get down and dirty with other students interested in the outdoors!



High School students from all over the state gather to camp out on a lake, take trips all over the Coast and learn about water resources and conservation. Activities include: canoeing, nature walking, ghost and Gullah storytelling, bonfires, exhibitions & presentations on native wildlife & vegetation. 9th and 10th graders *interested in natural resources* are eligible to attend the October 24-26th camp which is located in Berkeley County. A \$50 deposit is required and will be refunded provided the applicant attends the camp. Students are sponsored by their local Conservation District. Contact Mary Jane Henderson at 576-2083 or 576-2080 for further information.

New Community Walking Trails

Unspoiled rural surroundings have been transformed into new walking trails for the Denny Terrace and Ridgewood neighborhoods. Finally families will have the opportunity to be outdoors and enjoy the tranquil beauty of their neighborhood's natural resources. The trail's surfacing material makes outdoor activities more accessible for people with disabilities, people in wheelchairs and walkers. The Conservation District *provided technical assistance* with the trail layout using recycled materials. Currently the District is providing assistance to the Blythewood Community for walking trails.

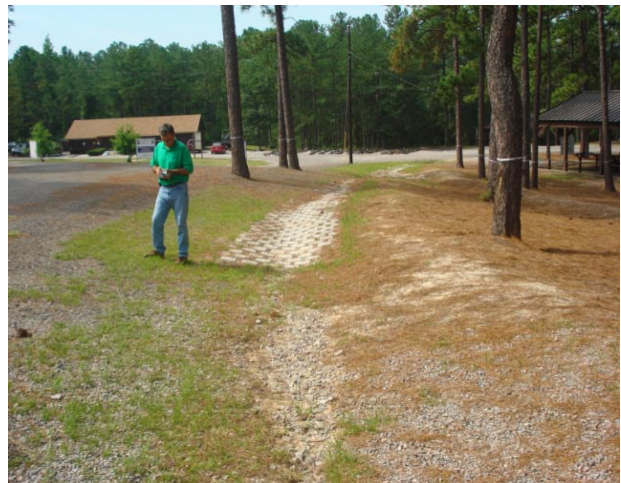


Department of Agriculture Tour



Mary Jane Henderson and Charlie Fisher from the Richland Conservation District were part of the South Carolina Agricultural Council's spring tour that visited Pearl Fryar's Topiary Garden that has put Bishopville, South Carolina on the map. People come from all over to view this amazing garden. Pearl's fascination with sculpting trees and bushes began with a simple challenge....to win the community's "yard of the month" award. The topiary bug bit Pearl and he began transforming the landscape around his house into a gallery of abstract forms shaping native and exotic plants with garden shears and a hedge trimmer. Pearl says "All are welcome" and if you find him at home he will stop what ever he is doing and talk with you and share his garden's message of peace, love and goodwill.

Commissioners Tour Fort Jackson



District Commissioners, John V. Green, Lewis Gunter and Ken Mullis along with District staff enjoyed seeing the conservation work that Fort Jackson has done to control erosion problems in heavy soldier foot traffic areas and former bombing sites; diversions have been constructed to take care of water runoff. Ft Jackson has done intense management to safeguard the Red Cockaded Woodpecker, which is an endangered species, and continues to work hard to improve the base for wildlife and timber production.

Shandon United Methodist Summer Camp



On June 11th, Joy Sullivan, DNR Program Coordinator, provided sessions on water quality to approximately 130 campers from Shandon United Methodist Church using the enviroscape; a hands-on watershed model. The camp was held at Heathwood Hall and the topic was "God's Green Earth". Joy demonstrated how everyone lives in a watershed and how we all contribute to the pollutants that end up in our local waters. From fluids leaking from our vehicles, to applications of fertilizers in our yards, students learned how to minimize their impact on our environment. If you would like a similar demonstration for your students, scout group or club, please contact Mary Jane Henderson of the Richland Conservation District @ 803-576-2083 .

Greenview Park



County Councilman, Damon Jeter gives an overview of soil and water concerns at Greenview Park. The Richland Conservation District received a request to evaluate the soil and water conditions concerning flooding and channel stabilization adjoining the Park and the Greenview Neighborhood. The District will work with state and local officials in the evaluation process. Shown in pictured (left to right) Scott Glenn, Field Engineer with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Hemphill Pride, III, Richland Conservation District Commissioner, Mike Sigmon, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist, County Councilman Damon Jeter, Ronnie Kinnett, Deputy Executive Director Richland County Recreation Commission and Sam Holland, Richland County Conservation Commission Member.

Spartanburg Team Competes at Canon Envirothon in Arizona

From July 28th until August 3rd, students from Spartanburg High School competed for scholarships and prizes with 53 other states and Canadian Provinces at the Canon Envirothon competition. Flagstaff became home for the week-long program which included training days, testing days, an oral presentation development day, and a day to unwind! Students were treated to a short day at the Grand Canyon where the views were spectacular, and the history, long and deep. Although the South Carolina team did not place in the top 10, they did manage a 3rd place score in the area of Forestry – quite a feat for a team not familiar with Aspens, Ponderosa Pines or Mesquite!

If you are interested in becoming involved with the state program, contact the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District, or visit the Envirothon website at www.dnr.sc.gov/education/Envirothon

Soil Station Photo courtesy of Arizona Envirothon



Maryam Aly is pictured left and William Weir is on the right. They are determining soil types.



From left to right: William Weir, Marquan Jones, Maryam Aly, Hazel Lever, and kneeling, Vincent Wideman.

Affiliate Members are a vital part of our conservation team. Without the monetary support given from Affiliates, we would not be able to carry out the many programs to promote "Conservation Stewardship" within the county. The Conservation District is committed to helping educate the students and landowners of Richland County. Become an affiliate member by sending this slip to:

**Richland Conservation District
2020 Hampton Street, Room 3063A
Columbia, SC 29204**

I would like to become an Individual/Corporate sponsor of The Richland Conservation District

<input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate Basic Membership	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Affiliate Member	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Affiliate Member	\$125
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Affiliate Member	\$200 or more

Name_____

Address_____

City, St., Zip_____

Your contribution is tax deductible

Richland Conservation District

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Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant
Mary Jane Henderson, Education Coordinator
Mike Sigmon, District Conservationist, NRCS
Ricky Walker, Civil Engineer Tech. NRCS, Ft. Jackson
Joy Sullivan, Program Coordinator, DNR

PLEASE NOTE

The Richland Conservation District Commissioner's Board Meeting will be the second Monday of each month. Each meeting begins at 6:30 PM. The public is cordially invited to attend. For information on meeting location please call 803-576-2080 or email fisherc@rcgov.us

The USDA prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age and disability.